TELEGRAM: Foreign Service of the United States of America

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Control: 1170

Rec'd: 23 OCTOBER 59
705PM

FROM: DEPARTMENT

NO: 868, OCTOBER 23, 2PM

EYES ONLY AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

I HAVE CONSIDERED YOUR SUGGESTION TO DEFER ANNOUNCEMENT YOUR RESIGNATION AND WE ALL AGREE IT IS AN EXCELLENT IDEA. ACCORDINGLY, OUR PUBLIC POSITION WILL BE THAT YOU ARE RETURNING ON LEAVE AND CONSULTATION. APPRECIATE TREMENDOUSLY YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS IN THIS SITUATION.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.

REGARDS,

CHRIS

HERTER

NODIS REVIEW
Cat. A - Caption removed; transferred to O/FADRC
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Reviewed by: Jos. Brogan
Date: 6 April 1982

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Sunday, October 25, 1959

I went at 10 this morning to Kit Steel's house. We talked about the flag situation in Berlin and a number of other subjects. The British and ourselves are seriously at odds over the tactics to be adopted to meet contingencies on November 6. I am in favor of a decision that might even lead to the involvement of Allied troops in case the West German police force proves inadequate. The British are for a much softer line, and the French to date have remained in the middle.

Fritz motored Maya de Montaudouin and myself down to lunch at Schwedisches Gästehaus Nette-Mühle. It is an attractively situated restaurant on the banks of a trout stream, and in summer must be an idyllic spot. A short distance away is the extraordinary castle Bürresheim; a guided tour of it consumes about two hours but it is well worthwhile. Most of the rooms have furniture, tapestries, rugs and objects of various sorts dating back as far as the 13th century when the schloss was originally built. It has escaped any damage in the numerous wars so devastating to most German castles of its own and later periods. It was continuously inhabited until 1937 and thereafter became state property. Although small compared with some of the buildings of the royal courts, it is in many respects more rewarding than any of them.

On the way home, we stopped at Marialach. It is delightfully located on meadows near a little lake in bucolic surroundings. The monastery itself is in excellent condition but we saw little of it since we arrived almost at closing time.

When I got home I found von Bismarck painting away and hoping to finish his task tomorrow morning, but minus myself.

It [redacted] rained this morning but this afternoon the sun came out, and it was a beautiful autumn evening. The drive through the Eifel is a joy at this time of year. The leaves have turned, and one is reminded of the foliage in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.

Monday, October 26, 1959

We had a Consuls General meeting this morning and commenced a stimulating discussion on the following agenda (pages 65-67).

Political

1. The German People Today

A. Prospects for the future of democracy.

B. What do they feel about Hitlerism and World War II?

C. Could "it happen again?" If so, what are the circumstances likely to be?

D. Effect on the German mentality of the growth of the Bundeswehr.

E. Would they ever [illegible] be reconciled to the indefinite division of [illegible]

F. Sense of responsibility as member of NATO.

G. Dependence on continued economic prosperity.

H. Would the people [illegible] Germany reconcile themselves to the loss of [illegible]?

2. German Attitudes toward Eastern Europe

A. Poland and Czechoslovakia, including diplomatic recognition.

B. Political power of refugee organizations.

C. "Revanchism": present and potential.

3. Germany's Role in Europe

A. Do Germans feel firmly committed to the West?

B. Degree of support for united Europe. How much is it affected by Adenauer's personal influence?

C. Franco-German relations.

D. German attitudes toward the British.

4. Germany and the United States

A. Is Adenauer's policy of close relations likely to

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continue after he is no longer there?

B. Should the United States continue financial support for Berlin?

5. Germany and the Underdeveloped Countries

A. Favorable and unfavorable factors.

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Economic

1. Recent Developments in the Common Market and Outer Seven Free Trade Area

   A. German attitudes, particularly as expressed in the field.

   B. Reported British and French views.

2. The German Role in NATO Defense Posture

   A. How do Germans view their role?

   B. Financial commitments and future budgetary problems.

3. German Aid to Underveloped Countries

   A. What motives prompt German aid?

   B. How widespread is grass-root understanding and support?

   C. What political assets and liabilities does Germany have in underdeveloped areas (Middle East, South Asia and Africa).

4. Long-term Outlook for German Economy

   A. Prospects for next 5 years.

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The Charge d'Affaires at the Belgian Embassy called me this morning to say King Baudouin would like to land his helicopter at Plittersdorf on Friday morning and proceed from there to make a call on the President of the Federal Republic. I told him we would be happy to offer him such facilities as there are. The landing strip adjoins Henry Tasca's house, where the noise made by helicopters while in transit renders conversation impossible.

Prince Constantine of Bavaria came in to interview me this afternoon. He has been doing profiles of various characters in German official life.

I gave a reception for about 75 people in honor of our visiting Consuls General. Afterwards, the Timberlakes had an informal dinner for many of the same group. I enjoyed it, [redacted] especially talking to Julie's father, Charles Meehan. He is 83, [redacted] extremely lively, even picturesque.

Tuesday, October 27, 1959

James King, who is working on a large project for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with Paul Nitze and others, spent an hour or more with me. His views on the missile gap and many other topics of immediate importance in connection with security and foreign policy are [redacted] interesting.

Jean Monnet had expected to come up this afternoon and spend the night at the house for a farewell talk. He telephoned this morning to say he was ill in bed with a high temperature. He is so rarely ill that I am worried about him.

Von Reppert Bismarck lunched with me and made a present of two sketches, one for Evangeline and one for myself. Mine is of a ballet dancer, and hers a colorful water-color of two figures. They are [redacted] attractive. He hopes to finish the pair of portraits I commissioned within a week or so, and they will be forwarded to me in Washington. He is a charming fellow.

Bynum Shaw interviewed me this afternoon. He is intent on writing an article about me for the Baltimore Sun.

I had dinner tonight with the Schwartzes.

We sent off the following telegram last night about the Berlin flag affair: (pages 70-72).

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SECRET

Wednesday, October 28, 1959

Saw a number of people today, including Countess Donhof who is about to make a journalistic trip to the West Coast of Africa.

At 6 o'clock I called on the Chancellor. We had a merry meeting while I explained to him how working for the U.S. Government resembled marriage in that it was easy to get into and difficult to get out of. He was disappointed about Murphy's decision not to come here, and said he expected to see me back. We entertain slightly different opinions on that possibility!

Dined with Betsy and Bill Tyler; ate partridge and drank fine wine. Sat up late.

Thursday, October 29, 1959

Congressman Carl Albert, a Democrat from Oklahoma, came to see me this morning with John Heimburger. We had a talk about the disposition of American agricultural surpluses in Europe.

I called Jean Monnet in Bazoches to say goodby. He is still ill in bed with grippe.

Max Kohnstamm came down from Brussels to talk to me.

This afternoon I wrote the following two letters (pages 74-75).

I left Duesseldorf tonight by Lufthansa for New York.

SECRET

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[redacted]

Bonn/Bad Godesberg, Germany
October 29, 1959

Dear Dr. Globke:

As you know, I expect to get off to Washington tonight on consultation and still do not know whether or not I shall be coming back. This will depend upon the designation of a successor and the timing of his arrival in Bonn.

In view of the fact that my stay there may be indefinite, I am taking the liberty of transmitting through you, as a gift to the Chancellor, an assortment of French red Bordeaux that I hope may give him pleasure. I would make two suggestions in regard to these wines: (1) They should be decanted before serving; (2) They should lie quietly in a cellar for two months before they are used.

This is a very minor and, in point of numbers, meager gift. They are vintages to which I am particularly attached, and I think it would be difficult to find more of them. I hope they will prove to be in sound condition.

I would appreciate very much your courtesy in having these transferred to the Chancellor's cellar.

May I take this occasion to tell you how deeply appreciative I am of your unfailing kindness and consideration in all the transactions I have had with you during my happy stay in Bonn.

With warm personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

David Bruce
American Ambassador

His Excellency
Dr. Hans Globke,
State Secretary,
Office of the Federal Chancellor,
Bonn.

[redacted]

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PERSONAL

PRIVATE

October 29, 1959

Dear Felix:

I am leaving tonight for Washington on urgent consultation. As you have probably learned, the question of who will succeed me has not been definitely settled; as a consequence, my resignation has been postponed. Therefore, I am as of now unaware whether or not I shall be returning here, so I am not saying any good-byes.

Although I shall be seeing you here or elsewhere in the future, I want you to know at this time how much I have appreciated your unfailing kindness and helpfulness to me since I first arrived in Bonn, and how much I have admired the skill with which you have so admirably handled all matters of joint interest to our two countries.

It is not a farewell present, but I am as a slight token of friendship, taking the liberty of sending you, through Bill Tyler, a few bottles of the Cognac we have sometimes drunk together.

With warm personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

His Excellency
Felix von Eckardt,
State Secretary for Press
and Information,
Welckerstrasse 11,
Bonn.

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